

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. - 41. Cancelled

42. (New) A system for delivering and deploying a prosthesis, the system comprising:

the prosthesis, comprising a graft and an underlying stent, the graft having a connected end that is attached to the stent and a free end that is not attached to the stent;

a first member for releasably retaining at least a portion of the underlying stent in a compressed configuration;

at least one second, non-sheath member for releasably retaining at least the free end of the graft in a compressed configuration.

43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the first member comprises a sheath.

44. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the prosthesis is self-expanding.

45. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein at least a portion of the first member is positioned between the stent and the graft.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the second member retains the free end of the graft in contact with the first member.

47. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the second member comprises a suture.

48. (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the suture comprises a slipknot adapted to be untied to release the free end of the graft.

49. (New) The system of claim 47 further comprising a member adapted to cut the suture to release the free end of the graft.

50. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the second member comprises an adhesive.

51. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the second member comprises a crochet weave.

52. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the stent has a covered portion that is covered by the graft when the prosthesis is in an expanded configuration, and at least one uncovered portion that is not covered by the stent in the expanded configuration.

53. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the system further comprises a third member for releasably retaining the uncovered portion of the stent.

54. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the third member comprises a crochet weave.

55. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the second member comprises a removable wrapper adapted to be removed before delivery of the prosthesis into a body lumen.

56. (New) The system of claim 42 further comprising a movable member adapted to interface with the second member, the second member being releasable in response to movement of the movable member.

57. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein the movable member comprises an inner core underlying the stent and longitudinally slidable relative to the stent.

58. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the second member comprises a slot in the first member and a portion of the graft disposed within the slot and retained between the inner core and the first member in a first position of the inner core relative to the first member, but releasable in a second position of the inner core relative to the first member.

59. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the second member comprises a suture and the inner core comprises a cutter positioned to cut the suture upon movement of the inner core a predetermined distance in a predetermined direction.

60. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein the removable wrapper is a heat-set wrapper and the graft is heat set in the compressed configuration, the graft adapted to

remain in the heat-set compressed configuration until the stent begins to expand and intraluminal fluid flows between the stent and the graft.

61. (New) A system for delivering and deploying a prosthesis, the system comprising:

the prosthesis, comprising a graft and an underlying stent, the graft having a connected end that is attached to the stent and a free end that is not attached to the stent; and

a first member for releasably retaining at least a portion of the underlying stent in a compressed configuration;

the graft fixed in a compressed configuration over the first member without aid of a second member during introduction of the system into a body lumen and adapted to remain in the compressed configuration until the stent begins to expand and intraluminal fluid flows between the stent and the graft.

62. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the graft is heat-set in the compressed configuration.

63. (New) The system of claim 61, further comprising a removable wrapper covering the prosthesis.

64. (New) A method for delivering and deploying a prosthesis, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a prosthesis comprising a graft and an underlying stent, the graft having a connected end that is attached to the stent and a free end that is not attached to the stent,

(b) mounting the prosthesis on a delivery system including releasably retaining the stent in a compressed configuration using a first member and fixing the graft in a compressed configuration over the first member;

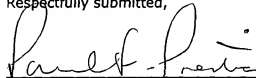
(c) introducing the delivery system into a body lumen without a second member present to hold the graft in the compressed configuration;

(d) removing the first member to allow at least a portion of the stent to expand and intraluminal fluid to flow between the stent and the graft, releasing the graft from the compressed configuration.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein step (b) comprises heat setting the graft in the compressed configuration.

66. (New) The method of claim 65 further comprising heat setting a protective wrapper over the graft and then removing the protective wrapper prior to step (c).

Respectfully submitted,



Paul F. Prestia, Reg. No. 23,031  
Attorney for Applicant

PFP/bgd

Dated: September 10, 2003

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.O. Box 980 Valley Forge, PA 19482 (610) 407-0700
<input type="checkbox"/> P.O. Box 1596 Wilmington, DE 19899 (302) 778-2600

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

**EXPRESS MAIL** Mailing Label Number: EL 992973132 US

Date of Deposit: September 10, 2003

I Herby certify that this paper and fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, with sufficient postage, on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Kathleen Libby

BGDURHAM\_1:\BSI\260US3\PRELAMENTMENT.DOC